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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/571,738	03/14/2006	Yves Gaignet	MCA-705 US	6947
25182	7590	04/06/2011	EXAMINER	
MILLIPORE CORPORATION 290 CONCORD ROAD BILLERICA, MA 01821			GOLIGHTLY, ERIC WAYNE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/571,738	GAIGNET ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eric Golightly	1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2010 and 25 January 2011.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-12 and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,15,16,18 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,6,8-12,14,17,19 and 21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02 July 2010</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' amendment filed 1/25/2011 and the remarks filed 12/28/2010 are acknowledged. Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-21 are pending. Claims 5, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are withdrawn. Claims 7, 13 and 22 are canceled.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 7/2/2010 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. Specifically, there do not appear to be copies for JP 393761 and JP 46673. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 19, the status identifier is "Currently Amended", but the claim is apparently not currently amended. Further, there is underlined text in the claim that was not newly added. MPEP 714(C)(2).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14, 17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,780,197 to Schuman (hereinafter "Schuman").

Regarding claim 1, Schuman teaches a module (abstract), which is fully capable of being used for pretreatment for cleaning a fluid purification system, e.g., by using the module upstream of a fluid purification system (Fig. 2, ref. 84 and col. 6, lines 44 and 45 upstream of Fig. 2, especially ref. 72, 68, 78 and col. 5, lines 19-25), the module comprising a purification pretreatment means (Fig. 2, ref. 56 and col. 4, line 19) and a housing (Fig. 2, ref. 24, including ref. 28 and 94 and col. 3, line 33, 34, and 44 and col. 5, line 48) in which the purification means are housed; and a cleaning agent (Fig. 2, ref. 104 and col. 5, line 61) contained within the housing from the outset, wherein the cleaning agent is disposed to be fully capable of coming in contact with a fluid caused to circulate through the purification pretreatment means (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 12 and 13) thereby to clean a fluid purification system which is downstream of the pretreatment module after a cleaning cycle has been started. It is noted that the fluid purification system is not positively claimed as part of the claimed pretreatment module, and is not interpreted as part of the claimed pretreatment module.

Regarding claim 2, the module as per the Schuman teaching is fully capable of not being demounted.

Regarding claim 3, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is disclosed between the purification pretreatment means and a purified fluid outlet formed in the housing (Fig. 2, ref. 44 and col. 4, lines 30 and 31).

Regarding claim 4, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is housed in a space (Fig. 2, ref. 94 and col. 5, line 48) in the housing.

Regarding claim 8, Schuman discloses a module wherein the purification pretreatment means comprises a front filtration member (Fig. 2, ref. 84).

Regarding claim 9, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent comprises a chemical compound and is capable of having a bactericidal effect (col. 5, line 61).

Regarding claim 10, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is in a form of tablets (col. 5, line 61).

Regarding claim 11, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is a chlorinated product (col. 5, lines 61, 67 and 68).

Regarding claim 14, initially it is noted that the recited system requires no additional structure beyond what is taught in claim 1. Thus, Schuman discloses a system for purifying a fluid comprising the module of claim 1.

Regarding claim 17, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is housed in a recess (Fig. 2, area within ref. 62 and col. 4, line 26) in a raised portion of the housing.

Regarding claims 19 and 6, Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is fully capable of being disposed at a location between a means for purifying a liquid by tangential filtration and a fluid outlet formed in the housing (Fig. 2, ref. 44 and col. 4, lines 30 and 31). It is noted that the tangential filtration means also reads on a purification treatment module. It is noted that reverse osmosis, nanofiltration, ultrafiltration and microfiltration are known in the art and the skilled artisan would have found it obvious to use osmosis, nanofiltration, ultrafiltration and microfiltration with a reasonable expectation of success since they are known as effective for filtration.

Regarding claim 21, Shuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent is disposed such that it is fully capable of coming into contact with a fluid caused to circulate inside the housing to clean at least a portion of a purification system which is downstream of the pretreatment module wherein the fluid is water (abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicants are advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. The common knowledge or known in the art statements made in the previous Office actions are taken to be admitted prior art because applicants failed to traverse the examiner's assertion of official notice. MPEP 2144.03(C).

10. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuman (US 4,780,197).

Schuman discloses a module wherein the cleaning agent comprises chlorine (col. 5, lines 61-68), but does not explicitly teach the agent comprises one the recited list of substances, which includes bleach. Bleach is known in the art and the skilled artisan would have found it obvious to use an agent comprising bleach in the module of

the Schuman teaching to, e.g., kill bacteria, with a reasonable expectation of success since bleach is known as effective for killing bacteria.

Double Patenting

11. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

12. Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3 of U.S. Patent No. 4,944,875 to Gaignet (hereinafter “875”), which teaches a device for producing pure water. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of ‘875 differ from those of claim 1 of the present invention in that the claims of ‘875 do not explicitly teach the cleaning agent. Cleaning agents are

known in the art and the skilled artisan would find it obvious to include a cleaning agent in order to enhance the fluid purification with a reasonable expectation of success.

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Response to Amendment

13. The objection to claim 1 is withdrawn in view of the amendment.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicants' arguments filed 12/28/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicants' remarks that they are relying upon the English translation portions of the Japanese Office action as the concise explanation of the relevancy of the references in the IDS filed on 7/2/2010 (remarks, page 6, first paragraph) is persuasive. Accordingly, these references have been considered only insofar as can be understood from the English translation portions of the Japanese Office action.

In response to applicants' argument that the apparatus of the applied art is not designed to clean a purification system since, it is alleged, Schuman (US 4,780,197) discloses using its apparatus for treating water in a pool or spa (remarks at page 7, last full paragraph), a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Regarding applicants' argument that the applied art does not teach or suggest a module which is disposable (remarks, paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8), since the apparatus of the applied art is fully capable of being disposed of, then it meets the claim.

In response to applicants' argument that the apparatus of the applied art is not designed to clean a purification system after a cleaning cycle has been started since, it is alleged, Schuman (US 4,780,197) discloses using its apparatus wherein a continuous supply of solvent water is supplied for treating water in a pool or spa (remarks at page 8, first full paragraph), a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

In response to applicants' argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicants' invention (remarks at page 8, paragraph beginning "Lastly"), it is noted that the features upon which applicants rely (i.e., a single fluid path of fluid through the system) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Golightly whose telephone number is (571) 270-3715. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Kornakov can be reached on (571) 272-1303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/E. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 1714
/Michael Kornakov/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1714